

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MR. STACKHOUSE:ARA:MR. BOWDLER

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

ARA:MR. KUBISCH

NEA:MR. SOBER

S/S:MR. FRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119129

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, XM

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO MEXICAN FOREIGN
MINISTER RABASA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY
KISSINGER TO FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA AT THE EARLIEST
POSSIBLE TIME:

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR EMILIO: I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU TRIED
TO REACH ME WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND I REGRET
THAT WE COULD NOT MAKE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS. I HAVE SINCE
LEARNED OF YOUR TRIP TO CHILE AND HOPE THAT IT WAS SUCCESS-
FUL. NOW THAT I AM BACK, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED
IN MY VIEWS ON MY MISSION TO ISRAEL AND SYRIA.

3. IT WAS CLEAR AFTER THE EGYPT-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREE-
MENT WAS SIGNED JANUARY 18 THAT A SIMILAR STEP WITH RESPECT
TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE MOMENTUM TO-
WARD PEACE THAT WAS BEING GATHERED WAS NOT TO BE LOST.
HAPPILY, BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUCH
AN AGREEMENT AND IN UTILIZING AMERICAN GOOD OFFICES TO
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ACHIEVE IT.

4. WE KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, AND IT WAS INDEED ARDUOUS. THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES WERE

FAR APART INITIALLY AND IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE MOST PAINSTAKING EFFORT THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THEM WAS CLOSED. BUT, I WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER TENACIOUSLY THE TWO SIDES ADVANCED THEIR POSITIONS, I WAS ALWAYS CONVINCED OF THEIR GOOD FAITH AND SERIOUSNESS OF INTENT. THE DEPLORABLE EVENTS OF MAALOT AND SUBSEQUENT ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST TARGETS IN LEBANON DID NOT DIVERT THEM FROM THEIR GOAL. BOTH SIDES CLEARLY WANTED THIS AGREEMENT AND WOULD NOT BE TURNED AWAY FROM IT BY A CHAIN OF EVENTS INSTIGATED BY EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL ELEMENTS. I BELIEVE THIS CAN BE A GOOD AUGURY FOR THE WHOLE PEACE PROCESS.

5. THE AGREEMENT ITSELF IS WELL DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MAIN PURPOSES. THE CEASE-FIRE IS TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED FROM THE DATE OF ITS SIGNING. THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES WILL BE SEPARATED BY A BUFFER ZONE AND THE LEVELS OF THEIR ARMAMENTS WILL BE LIMITED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS ZONE. A UNITED NATIONS FORCE WILL BE EMPLACED TO INSPECT COMPLIANCE. PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE BODIES OF THE DEAD WILL BE EXCHANGED. IN BRIEF, ALL THE PAINFUL, VEXING ELEMENTS EXISTING IN A SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION THAT HAVE PRODUCED AND PERPETUATED A BLOODY WAR OF ATTRITION IN RECENT MONTHS WILL BE REMOVED OR NEUTRALIZED.

6. WE MUST, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE REALISTICALLY WHAT THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT. IT IS NOT A PEACE AGREEMENT, AS ITS FINAL PARAGRAPH STATES; IT IS A STEP TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 OF OCTOBER 22, 1973. THE BASIC ISSUES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA REMAIN, AND IF THIS NEGOTIATION IS ANY INDICATION, THEIR RESOLUTION WILL BE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX.

7. BUT I BELIEVE WE MAY BE PERMITTED REAL HOPE FOR THE FUTURE BY WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AS PRESIDENT NIXON HAS SAID, A MAJOR ROADBLOCK TO A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT HAS

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BEEN REMOVED. WE CONSIDER THIS AGREEMENT TO BE A PIVOTAL ONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1949, SYRIA HAS MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL; THIS CANNOT FAIL TO HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON OTHER ARAB STATES WHO HAVE RESISTED ANY COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATION. FOR ARAB STATES ALREADY EMBARKED ON THIS COURSE THE AGREEMENT CAN ONLY REINFORCE THEIR COMMITMENT. FOR ISRAEL, THE AGREEMENT MEANS A SURCEASE, IN

WHICH ITS OWN THINKING ABOUT THE SHAPE OF ITS FUTURE
RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS CAN FURTHER EVOLVE.

8. THE SYRIA-ISRAEL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS AN IMPORT-
ANT MILESTONE IN A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. A FOUNDATION IS

NOW ESTABLISHED WITHIN WHICH THE SHOOTING CAN STOP AND PRE-
PARATIONS CAN BEGIN FOR CONSIDERING THOSE BASIC ISSUES THAT
WILL BE INVOLVED IN A PEACE AGREEMENT.

9. WORLD ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSSED ON TWO IMPORTANT MEET-
INGS TO OPEN IN OUR HEMISPHERE THIS MONTH: THE RESUMED
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ECONOMIC CHARTER IN MEXICO AND THE
LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN CARACAS. I HOPE BOTH MEET-
INGS WILL RESULT IN SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I AM ALSO
PLEASED THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO ORGANIZE THE
TWO WORKING GROUPS CALLED FOR IN OUR RECENT WASHINGTON
MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.

10. WARMEST REGARDS, HENRY. END TEXT. GDS KISSINGER

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